



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/656,476 | 09/05/2003 | Carey E. Garibay | BEAS-01454US5 | 8634 |
| 23910 | 7590 | 08/16/2005 | | |
| FLIESLER MEYER, LLP FOUR EMBARCADERO CENTER SUITE 400 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111 | | | EXAMINER AGWUMEZIE, CHARLES C | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3621 | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,476

Applicant(s)

GARIBAY ET AL.

Examiner

Charlie C. Agwumezie

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/05/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3 pages.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3621

DETAILED ACTION

Status of claims

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application per the response to office action filed by Applicant on June 13, 2005.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 13, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments/amendments with respect to claim 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10, 12-13, 16, 18, 19-21, 23-24, 27, 29-31, 32 and 34-36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldis et al U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0039916 in view of Hastings et al U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0034603 A1.

1. As per **claim 1, 12 and 23**, Aldis et al discloses a method comprising:

maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines (fig.1 and 11; 0013, 0014, 0018, claim 61); and

accessing a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank, wherein the software license is associated with a first license key (figs.1, 6 and 7; 0014, 0016, 0017, 0018, 0021, 0023, 0061, 0153).

What Aldis et al does not explicitly teach is upgrading/downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key.

Hastings et al discloses the method comprising upgrading/downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key (see fig. 4b and 5; 0100; 0017; 0019; 0021; 0037; 0047).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Aldis et al and provide the method of upgrading/downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key in view of the teachings of Hastings et al in order to ensure that user paid for features used or licensed.

2. As per **claim 2, 13 and 24**, Aldis et al further discloses the method, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined

Art Unit: 3621

contract (0022).

3. As per claim 5, 16 and 27, Aldis et al further discloses the method, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time (fig. 2 and 4, 0078).
4. As per claim 7, 18 and 29, Aldis et al further discloses the method, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses (fig. 2, and 4, 0005, 0015, claim 79).
5. As per claim 8, 19 and 30, Aldis et al further discloses the method, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license (0022, 0069, 0097).
6. As per claim 9, 20 and 31, Aldis et al further discloses the method, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software (see figs. 2 and 19, 0077, 0087, claim 40).
7. As per claim 10, 21 and 32, Aldis et al further discloses the method, wherein the web application uses role based security (fig.1; 0021, 0022, 0023).

Art Unit: 3621

34. As per claim 34, 35 and 36, Aldis et al failed to explicitly disclose the method wherein the software is downgraded.

Hastings et al discloses the method wherein the software is downgraded (see fig. 4b and 5; 0100; 0017; 0019; 0021; 0037; 0047).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Aldis et al and provide the method wherein the software is downgraded view of the teachings of Hastings et al in order to ensure that user paid for features used.

Claims 3, 11, 14, 22, 25 and 33, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldis et al U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0039916 in view of Hastings U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0034603 A1 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ramachandran et al U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0083998.

8. As per claim 3, 14 and 25, both Aldis et al Hastings et al failed to explicitly disclose the method, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.

Ramachandran et al discloses the method, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses (0018, 0172).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Aldis et al and provide the method

Art Unit: 3621

wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses in view of the teachings of Ramachandran et al in order to ease and estimate income by provider.

9. As per **claim 11, 22, and 33**, both Aldis et al and Hastings et al failed to explicitly disclose the method, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.

Ramachandran et al discloses the method, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software (0031, 0068, 0072, 0073, 0109, 0118).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Aldis et al and provide the method wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software in view of the teachings of Ramachandran et al in order to provide adequate security and ensure authorized users have access to licensed resources.

Claims **4, 6, 15, 17, 26 and 28**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldis et al U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0039916 in view of Hastings U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0034603 A1 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Eng U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0169725.

Art Unit: 3621

10. As per claim 4, 15 and 26, both Aldis et al and Hastings et al failed to explicitly disclose the method, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.

Eng discloses the method, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses (figs. 1, 9 and 10, 0036).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Aldis et al and provide the method wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses in view of the teachings of Eng in order to track license usages.

11. As per claim 6, 17 and 28, both Aldis et al and Hastings et al failed to explicitly disclose the method, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.

Eng discloses the method, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses (figs. 1, 9 and 10, 0036, 0052).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Aldis et al and provide the method wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses in view of the teachings of Eng in order to track license usages.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 3621

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Art Unit: 3621

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is **(571) 272-6838**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on **(571) 272 – 6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300. [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"].

(571) 273-8300. [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the Knox Building, 50 Dulany Street Alexandria VA.

acc
August 8, 2005

James Trammell
Primary Examiner
3621